



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Linden/Iowa Structures near Completion over I-215/SR60 Bridge at Blaine Street Set for Demolition**

*Full closure of Blaine St. Bridge can cut six months from construction calendar*

**RIVERSIDE** – Hundreds of daily commuters who use the Linden and Iowa overcrossings near UC Riverside will have something to cheer about when these popular bridges reopen for use by late September. Caltrans' contractor, Washington/Obayashi Joint venture, has made visible progress on these bridges that span the Interstate -215/State Route 60 freeway and connect the University Towers and John North High School with UCR and neighborhoods on the other side of the freeway.

When opened, the new bridges will feature safety and structural improvements. The new Linden structure will be 294 long and 74 wide with pedestrian sidewalks on each side. The overcrossing at Iowa Street will be 342 long and 90 wide with the same features.

"The process of building two major freeway bridges while more than 300,000 motorists pass under them each day is a major challenge," said Michael Perovich, Caltrans Deputy District Director for Construction in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. "In order to accomplish this, our contractor has limited most to the work to late night and early morning hours to minimize any possible disruption to the general motoring public."

Perovich said the reopening of the Linden and Iowa bridges is considered a "milestone accomplishment in the construction schedule for the overall 60/91/215 improvement project." The entire project is scheduled for completion in late 2007.

Almost simultaneously to the reopening of the Linden and Iowa bridges, the overcrossing at Blaine Street will be closed in order to build a new structure over the widened freeway at this location. In an effort to address the safety of students who attend nearby North High School, and in the interest

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**Linden and Iowa Bridges reopen**  
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of completing the project faster, Caltrans proposes to completely close the bridge to all traffic.

“Closing the bridge to vehicular traffic has its advantages,” Perovich explained. “We can provide a safer route for North High School students who won’t have to compete with vehicular traffic. We can shave almost months off of the construction schedule. And the added benefit is the Blaine bridge will open to the public sooner.”

Motorists who normally travel in this area can use a local detour that involves Chicago and University avenues. The detour will be posted and staffed with CHP officers for traffic control and safety enhancements.

Caltrans, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are working in partnership to construct improvements to the 60/91/215 Interchange and segments of each of the freeways that serve it. This project is one of the largest and most complex projects in the Inland Empire. The project stretches a distance of almost nine miles from Riverside on the west to Moreno Valley at its easterly terminus.

The three freeways that make up this overall improvement project and interchange are critical links between major Inland Empire communities in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties and serve the major flow of commuter and commercial traffic throughout the region. This interchange carried nearly 314,000 daily vehicles in 2003 and served more than 332,000 vehicles in 2004.



The Linden and Iowa street bridges over I-215 approach a planned late September completion date. A northbound view in the left photo shows the structures nearly 90 percent complete. At right, workers appear dwarfed by a bridge deck-finishing machine. Caltrans plans to completely close the Blaine St. bridge to shave at least six months off the construction timeline.

For project updates, call Caltrans directly at 1-866-60-91-215, or view the Web site at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/schedule.htm>

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